

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4765

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26142

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN FR

SUBJECT: UN SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. QUAI UN DIRECTOR ST. LEGIER TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 7
THAT GOF WAS DISPOSED TO SUPPORT RE-ELECTION OF UNSYG
WALDHEIM. FRENCH REASONING IS THAT THERE IS NO BETTER
SERIOUS CANDIDACY.

2. HE SAID GOF FULLY REALIZES THAT WALHEIM HAS SHORT-
COMINGS, ESPECIALLY HIS DEMAGOGUERY. GOF ALSO REALIZES
THAT UNDER THEORY OF REGIONAL ROTATION, THERE IS
PRESSURE FOR SYG FROM ANOTHER CONTINENT, SPECIFICALLY
AFRICA OR LATIN AMERICA. FRENCH WOULD BE FAVORABLY
DISPOSED, PARTICULARLY TO AFRICAN CANDIDACY, BUT THEY
SEE NO ONE EMERGING AS AFRICAN REGIONAL CHOICE. HE
MENTIONED UNESCO SECRETARY GENERAL M'BOW AS ACCEPTABLE
CANDIDATE TO PARIS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO
CAMPAIGN FOR M'BOW NOR AFRICAN CONSENSUS.
SIMILARLY FRENCH CONSIDER PEREZ-GUERRERO OF VENEZUELA
WOULD BE EXCELLENT CANDIDATE BUT HE IS APPARENTLY
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NOT GENERAL LATIN AMERICAN CHOICE.

3. ST. LEGIER SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED IN MOSCOW DURING AUGUST 20 CONSULTATIONS ON UNGA TOPICS, DURING INFORMAL TALK WITH SOVIET IO DIRECTOR ISRAELYAN, "WHAT DOES FRANCE THIRK OF THIS MAN ECHEVERRIA?" ST. LEGIER HAD REPLIED ALONG LINES OF ABOVE OUTLINE OF FRENCH POSITION, CONCLUDING THAT ECHEVERRIA WAS NOT SERIOUS CANDIDATE. ISRAELYAN HAD AGREED WITH HIM, ADDING THAT USSR DOES NOT WANT TO SUPPORT A CANDIDATE WHO WOULD ENCOUNTER OPPOSITION FROM ONE OR ANOTHER QUARTER. ST. LEGIER TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE TOOK THIS TO MEAN MOSCOW DID NOT WANT TROUBLE WITH WASHINGTON CONCERNING SYG CANDIDACIES AND WOULD THEREFORE NOT SUPPORT ECHEVERRIA. ST. LEGIER SAID ISRAELYAN HAD NOT SAID ANYTHING FURTHER REGARDING SYG ELECTION.

4. ST. LEGIER BELIEVES THAT TALK OF CHINA VETOING WALDHEIM SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. HE POINTED OUT THAT CHINA HAD ORIGINALLY VETOED WALDHEIM AT LAST ELECTION, BUT HAD FINALLY DROPPED ITS OBJECTIONS WHEN RESULTING DEADLOCK BECAME APPARENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT SAME SCENARIO MAY OCCUR AGAIN.
RUSH

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